

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SG
SUBJECT: COURT CONFIRMS SENEGALESE ELECTION RESULTS

REF: DAKAR 1629

1. BY DECISION DATED MARCH 13, SENEGAL'S SUPREME COURT PROCLAIMED PRESIDENT SENGHOR AS "DEFINITELY ELECTED" WITH 807,515 OUT OF 982,332 VALID BALLOTS CAST. COURT REJECTED PETITION BY OPPOSITION CHALLENGER ABDOULAYE WADE TO HAVE ELECTION ANNULLED ON GROUNDS THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CHANGES IN ELECTORAL CODE WHICH MADE SECRET BALLOT OPTIONAL RATHER THAN MANDATORY WERE UNCONSTITUTIONAL. COURT FOUND WADE HAD NOT PRODUCED EVIDENCE OF MASSIVE IRREGULARITIES.

2. GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY DENIED PDS REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO STAGE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS FOLLOWING ELECTIONS, WITH RATIONALE THAT CAMPAIGN PERIOD WAS OVER. IT WILL NOT BE CERTAIN UNTIL NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES IN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS WHETHER WADE'S PARTI DEMOCRATIQUE SENEGALAIS (PDS) WILL CARRY OUT THREAT TO BOYCOTT ASSEMBLY (REFTEL). WADE TOLD MARCH 10 PRESS CONFERENCE PDS DEPUTIES WOULD "ATTEND" BUT NOT TAKE PART IN ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS.

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ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, WADE'S LATEST TACTIC IS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO SENEGALESE ELECTIONS. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEDIA ARE GROUSING THAT WADE IS SIMPLY BEING POOR LOSER, AND COMMENTS EMBASSY HAS SEEN IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAVE TAKEN FAVORABLE VIEW OF CONDUCT OF JUST-CONCLUDED ELECTIONS IN SENEGAL.

3. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT NOT RELATED TO ELECTIONS,
LYCEE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN STRIKING IN DIOURBEL,
REPORTEDLY IN ZIGUINCHOR, AND POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE IN
PROTEST OVER NON-DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND
OTHER FUNDS. STRIKES SO FAR APPEAR TO BE TAME AFFAIRS
ALTHOUGH WIFE OF U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER WAS HARASSED AS
SHE PASSED THROUGH CROWD OF LYCEE DELAFOSSE STUDENTS
MILLING ABOUT IN DAKAR STREET ON MARCH 20. EMBASSY
RECALLS THAT IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME LAST YEAR THAT
STUDENT DISTURBANCES BEGAN TO SPREAD WHICH PERSISTED
IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER UNTIL END OF ACADEMIC YEAR.
MCKEE

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